

Comments on New York Times article in issue of 6 April 1959, page C-39

"Soviet is Tamed About 20 Years Behind US in Electricity Output"

Subject article was based on an interview with Messrs. J. E. Corette, Donald S. Kennedy and Edwin Vennard, who are attending the 27th annual convention of the Edison Electric Institute at New Orleans. Messrs. Kennedy and Vennard were members of a delegation from the US electric power industry which visited the USSR in August 1958.

The New York Times article is well presented and in most respects accurate. The main points requiring correction are as follows:

A. Mr. Corette compared US net production (total production less station use) with Soviet gross production (including station use) to arrive at his figures for per capita output. A comparison based on gross production would be even more favorable to US.

B. Based on later information, the Soviet capacity goal for 1965 is 113 million kilowatts rather than 108 million kilowatts.

C. The following paragraphs comment on other points in the New York Times article.

1. Employee Productivity -- In the absence of data on production workers in power plants in the US and the USSR, which would provide the best productivity data, it is possible to develop comparative data based on all employees in the electric utility industry. The US private electric utility industry employed 307,000 persons in 1954 and production was 1,208,000 kilowatt hours per employee. The USSR electric power industry employed 303,000 persons in 1955 and production was 460,000 kilowatt hours

per employee. On this basis, USSR productivity is about 38 percent that of the US.

2. Electric Power Exchange -- The Edison Electric Institute sponsored a tour of Soviet power installations in August 1958, as part of the US-USSR exchange program. A second visit to the USSR is planned for July 1959. In return, Soviet visitors are to come to the US in May 1959. The May and July exchanges have not yet been officially cleared by either the US State Department or the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs.